

# Space Weather Services at NASA GSFC Space Weather Lab

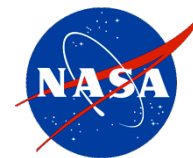
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NASA Goddard Space Flight Center



# Outline

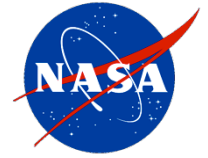
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- NASA/GSFC SWL assets: CCMC and ISWA
- Overview of GSFC Space Weather Services
- Forecasting example
- Summary

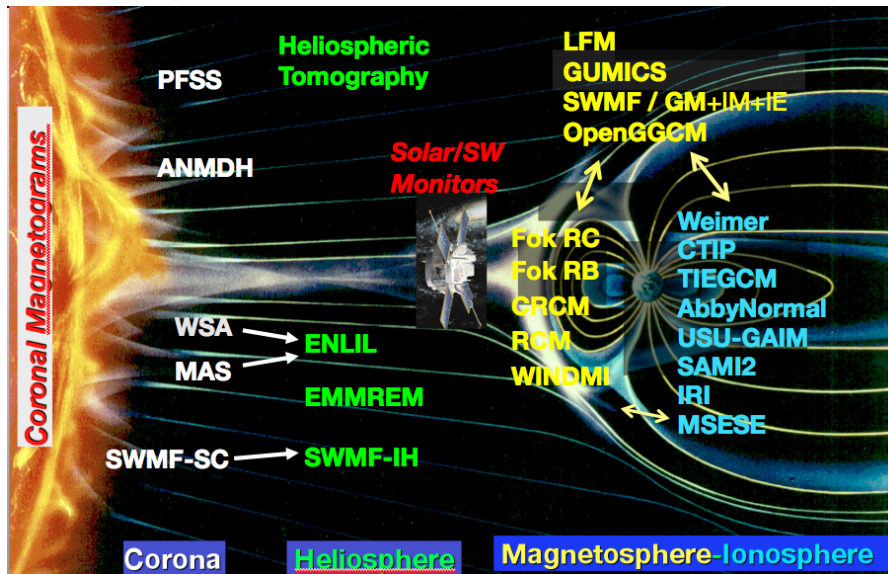


# Pillars of GSFC Space Weather Services



## CCMC

Community Coordinated Modeling Center  
(in operations since 2000)



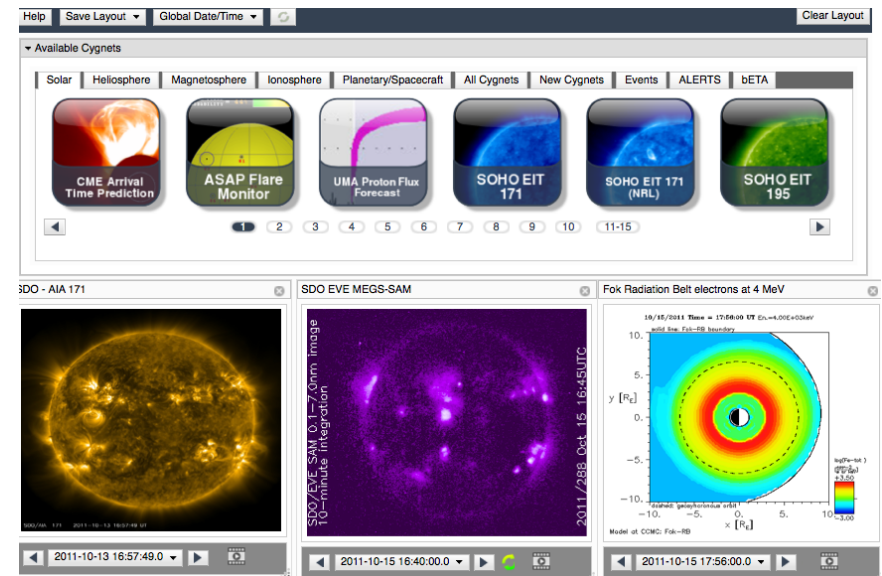
Facilitate  
Community  
Research

Address  
National SW  
Needs



## iSWA

Integrated Space Weather Analysis System  
(in operations since 2009)



Fetch latest SW information from diverse sources.  
Custom dissemination of data products and  
modeling results.



# Pillars of GSFC Space Weather Services



CCMC

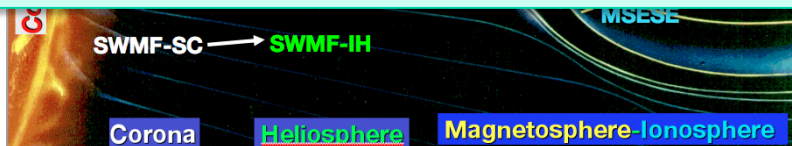


iSWA

- ✓ Knowledge (Research)
- ✓ Models

- ✓ Data/information
- ✓ Dissemination

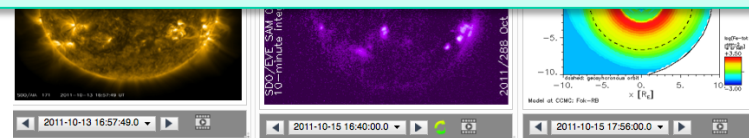
## Elements of Space Weather Forecasting



Facilitate  
Community  
Research

Address  
National SW  
Needs

Fetch latest SW information from diverse sources. Custom dissemination of data products and modeling results.







# Pillars of GSFC Space Weather Services



CCMC

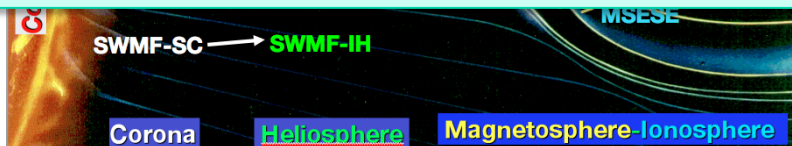


iSWA

<http://ccmc.gsfc.nasa.gov>

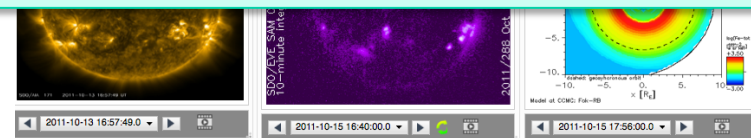
<http://iswa.gsfc.nasa.gov>

✓ Web-based tools & services, available world-wide



Facilitate  
Community  
Research

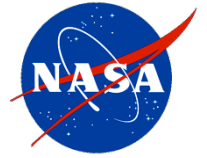
Address  
National SW  
Needs



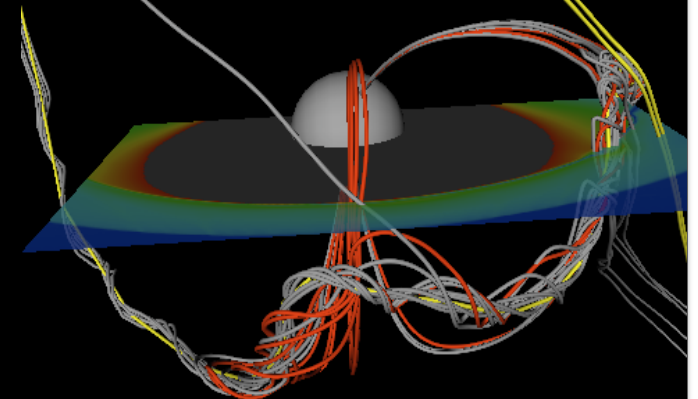
Fetch latest SW information from diverse sources. Custom dissemination of data products and modeling results.



# CCMC Facts



- ✓ Supported by NASA and NSF
- ✓ Largest assembly of Space Weather models anywhere
- ✓ Automated run on request system
- ✓ Tailored science analysis interfaces, also used for SWx
- ✓ More than 5000 major model runs executed
- ✓ 24/7 RT run capability for more than 7 years
- ✓ Trusted relation with model owners
- ✓ Interdisciplinary team composed of space physicists and computer scientists.
- ✓ Unique experience





# CCMC: Model Testing and Evaluation

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CCMC tests and evaluates modes

- as an **unbiased** agent
- through **event studies**, and through **real-time** calculations

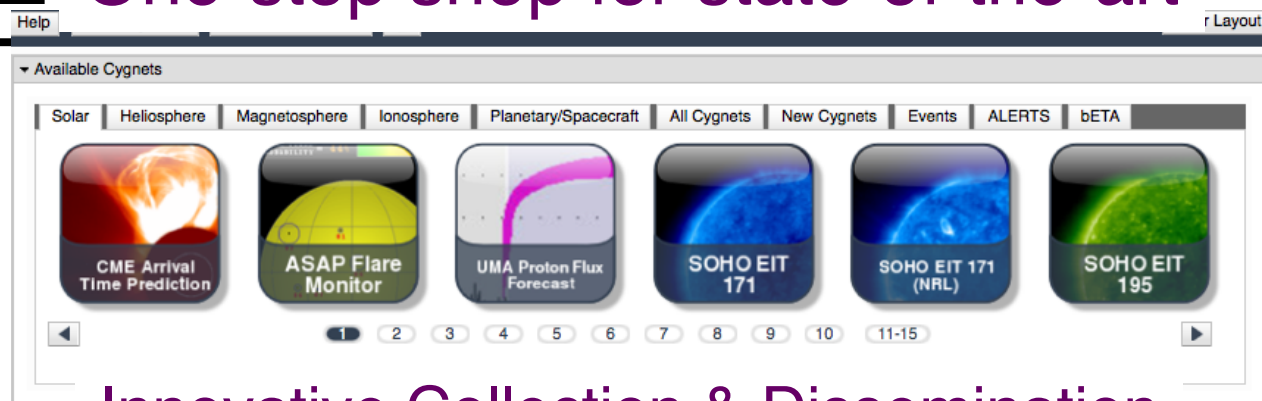
CCMC leads and supports **community-wide metrics challenges**.

- Ground magnetic perturbations – dB/dt, Dst index, Auroral oval boundaries, .. (GEM)
- Ionosphere parameters (TEC, ..) (CEDAR)
- CMEs, CIRs arrival times (SHINE )

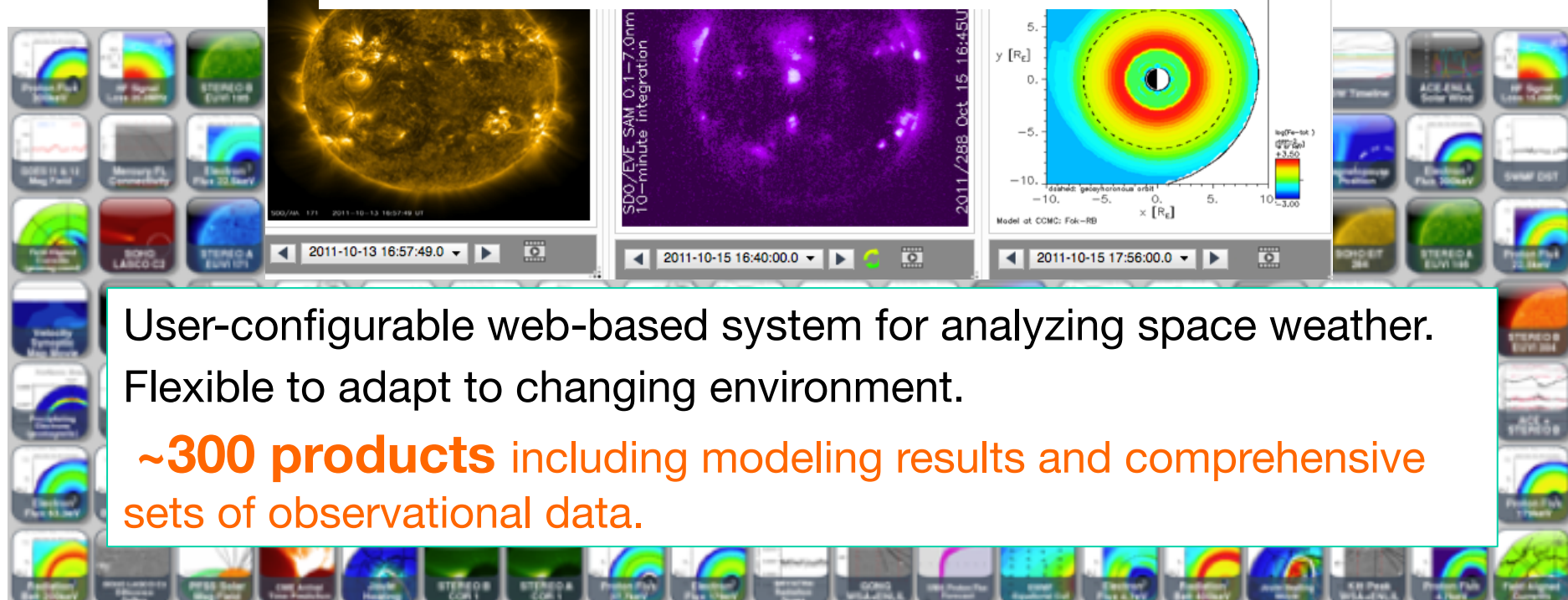
CCMC supports SWPC **geospace operational model selection** (physical quantities of interest: dB/dt).



# iSWA Facts: One-stop shop for state-of-the-art



## Innovative Collection & Dissemination of SWx Information



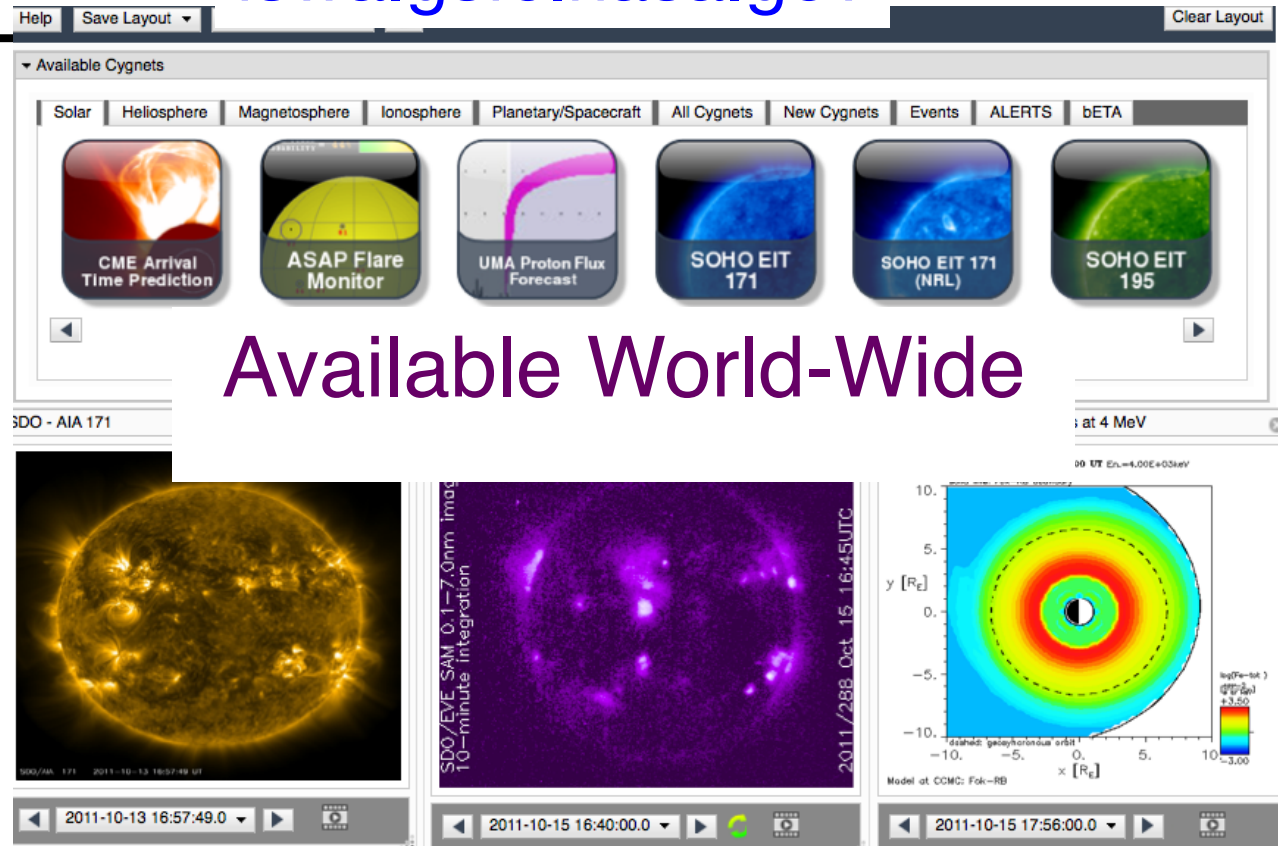
User-configurable web-based system for analyzing space weather.  
Flexible to adapt to changing environment.

**~300 products** including modeling results and comprehensive sets of observational data.



# iSWA Facts:

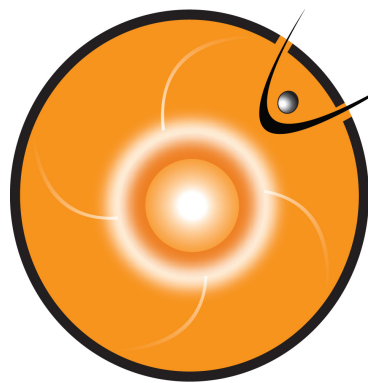
[iswa.gsfc.nasa.gov](http://iswa.gsfc.nasa.gov)



Features include: Global date/time (go back in time for anomaly resolution), Movie-mode, Super-timeline (RT validation), Save layout



# Space Weather Laboratory



COMMUNITY  
COORDINATED  
MODELING  
CENTER

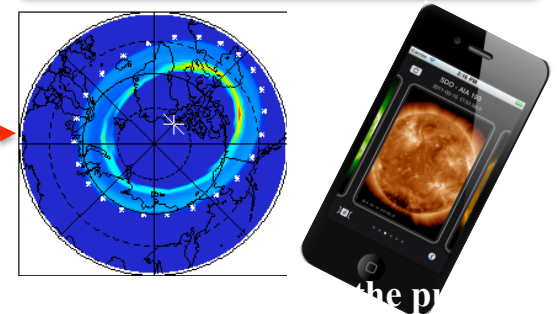
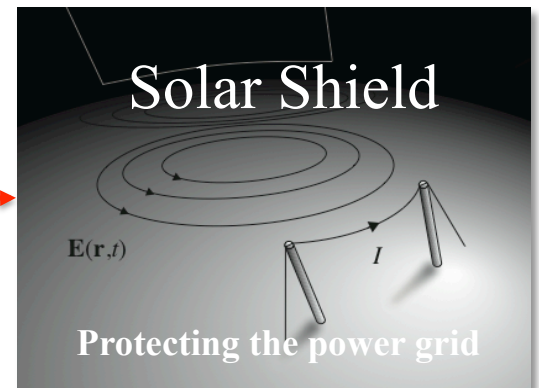
World-leading modeling  
Expertise



Partnering



Protecting NASA's missions





# GSFC SWx Services Status



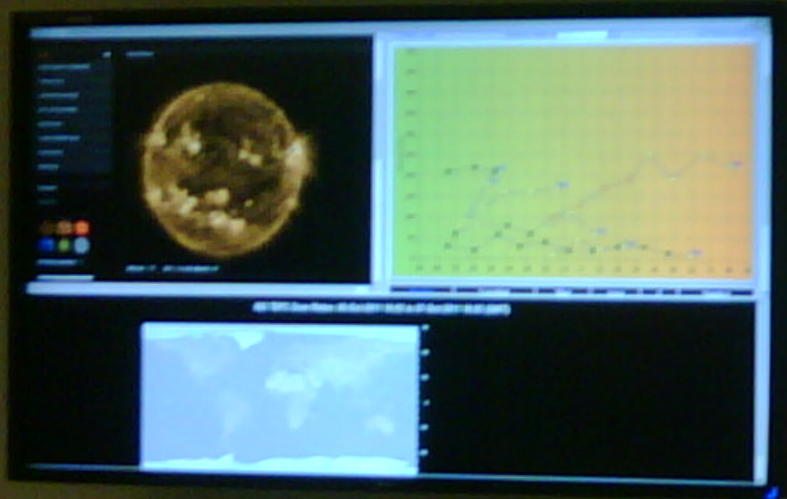
- Staff of scientists/forecasters
- Partnering with AFWA and JSC/SRAG (human flights)
- Real-time SWx displays & products via iSWA.
- In-the-field SWx analysis capabilities
- Annual SWx and NASA robotic mission operator workshop
  - The third annual workshop: Sep 14 – 15, 2011







# SRAG monitor of iSWA products



one iSWA layout for  
SEP monitoring



# Comprehensive list of Space Weather Products

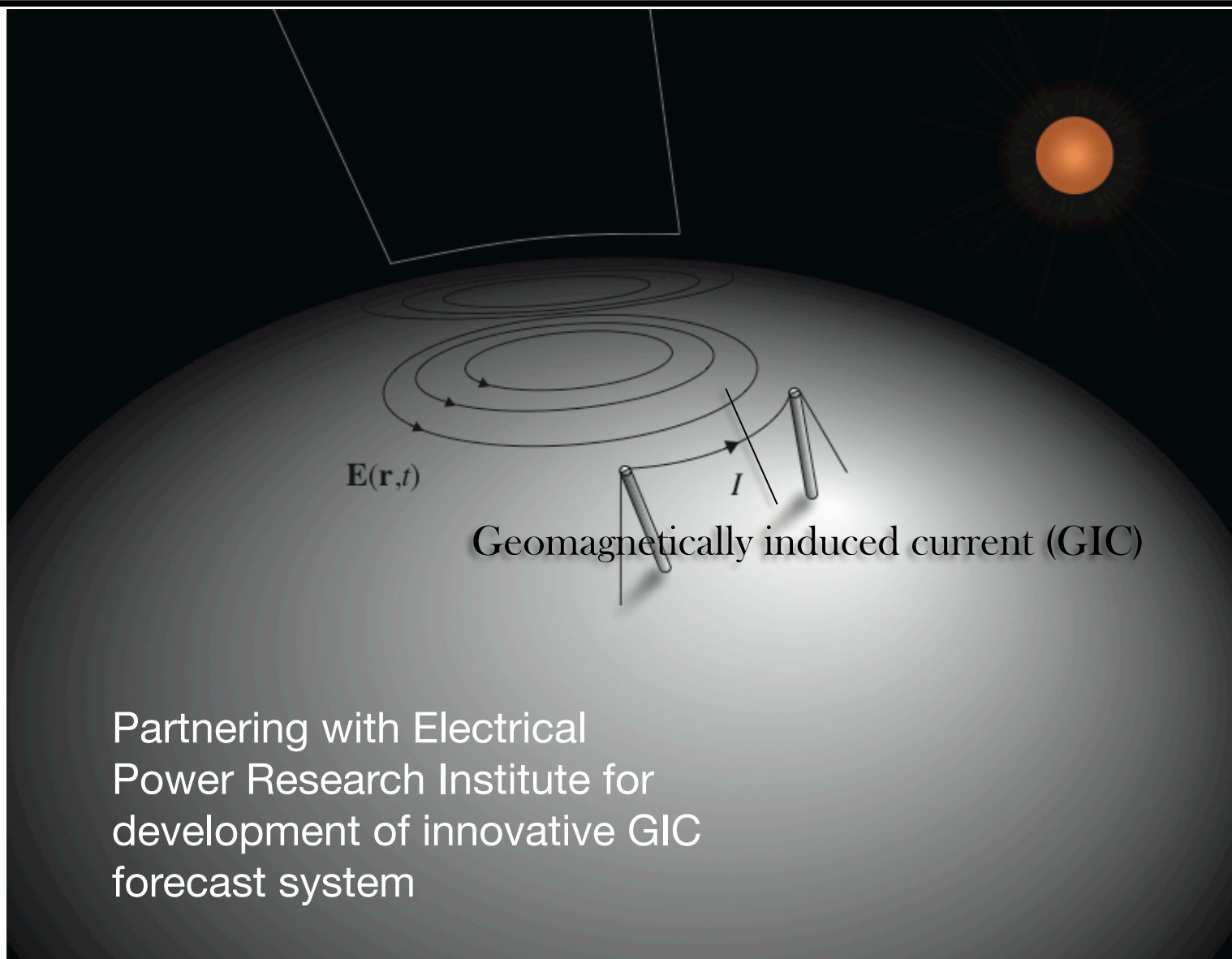
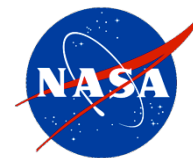
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- CME forecasting and monitoring
- Flare forecasting and monitoring
- SEP forecasting and monitoring
- Heliospheric tomography model
- Global MHD models of Earth's magnetosphere
- Radiation belt modeling
- Ionospheric models in Joule heating, currents, density, temperature, etc. - relevant for assessing drag effects and GPS accuracy
- Many more



# Solar Shield: Protecting the Power Grid

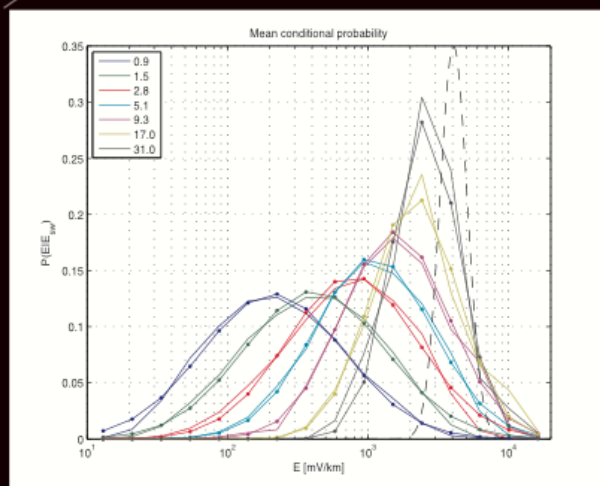
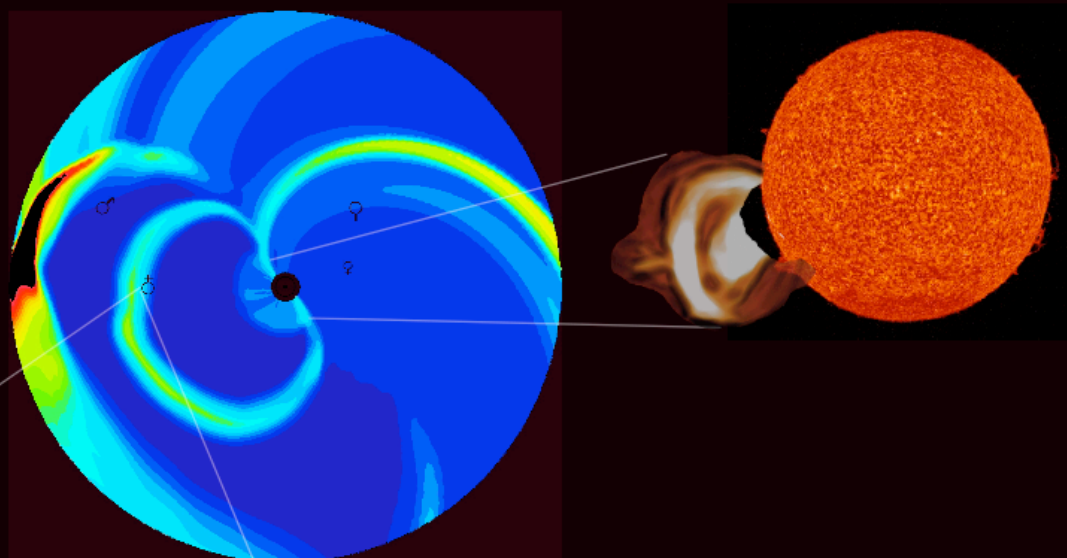


Partnering with Electrical  
Power Research Institute for  
development of innovative GIC  
forecast system



# Solar Shield: Level 1 forecast

## Lead-time: 1-2 days

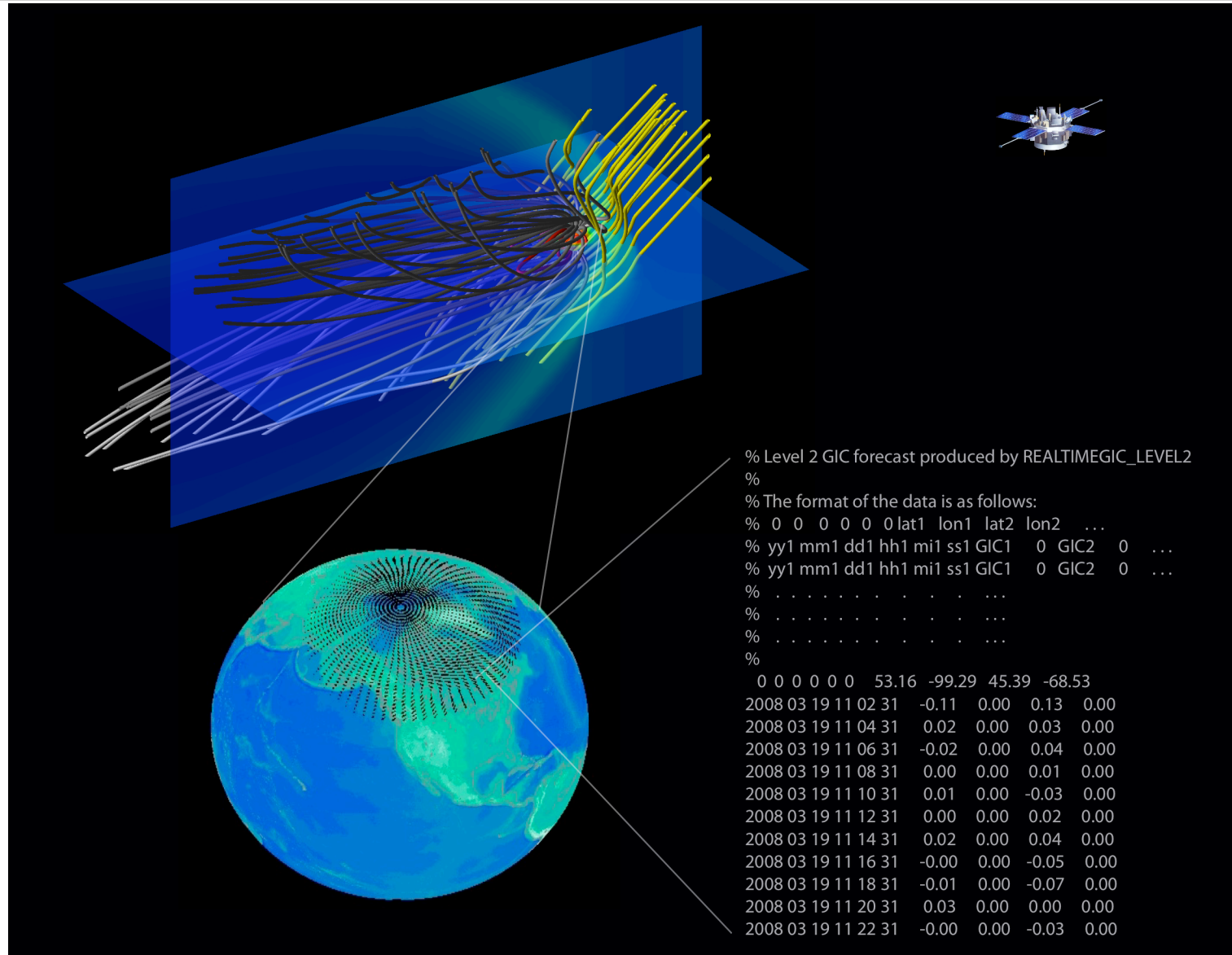


```
% Level 1 GIC forecast produced by REALTIMEGIC_LEVEL1
%
% The format of the data is as follows:
% 0 0 0 0 0 lat1 lon1 lat2 lon2 ...
% yy mm dd hh mi GIC1low GIC1high GIC2low GIC2high ...
%
0 0 0 0 53.16 -99.29 45.39 -68.53
2006 12 14 14 6 76 15 153
```



# Solar Shield: Level 2 forecast

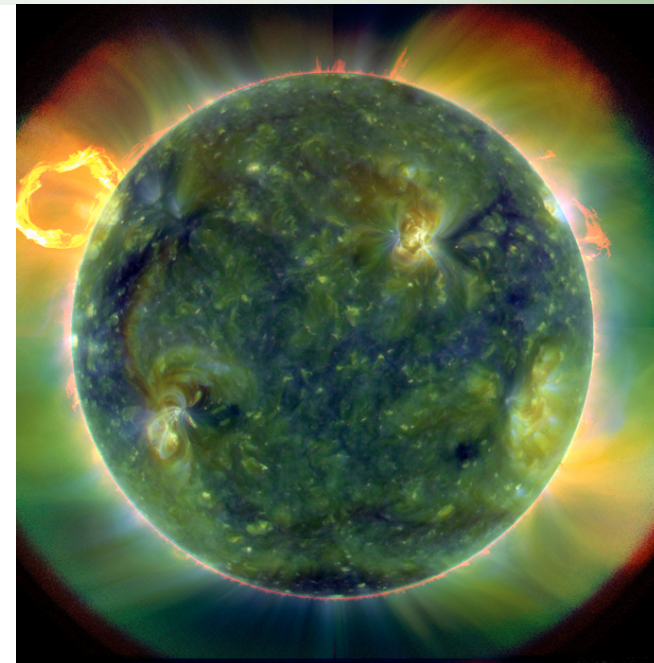
## Lead-time: 30-60 min





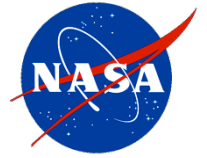
# Types of SWx Services

1. Providing assistance in spacecraft anomaly resolution by assessing whether space weather has any role in causing the observed anomaly/anomalies.
2. Sending out weekly space weather reports/summaries to NASA mission operators, NASA officials and involved personnel.

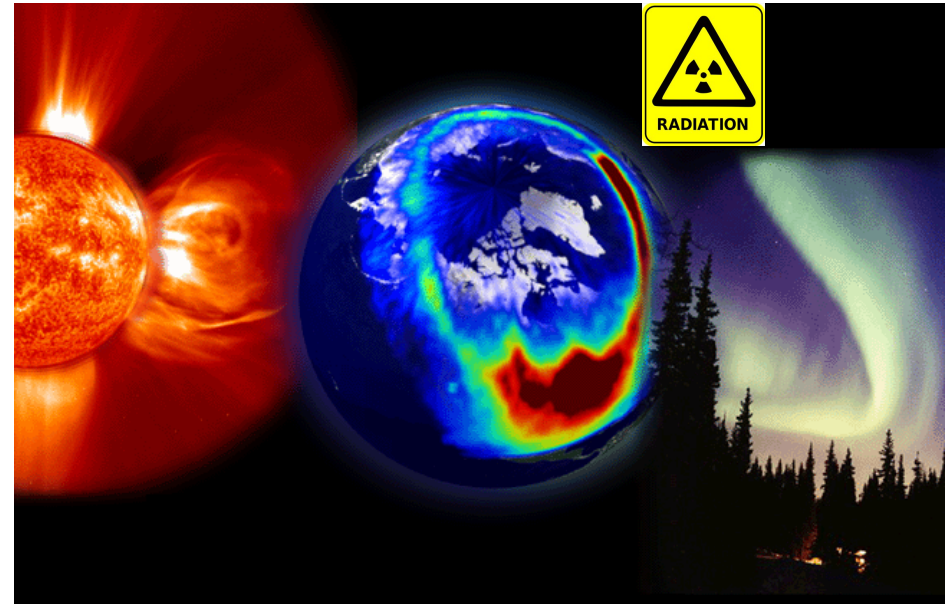




## Types of SWx Services - continued



3. Sending out timely space weather alerts/ forecasts regarding adverse conditions throughout the solar system, such as significant CME events, elevated radiation levels, geomagnetic storms, etc.
4. Providing general space weather support for NASA customers and the public.





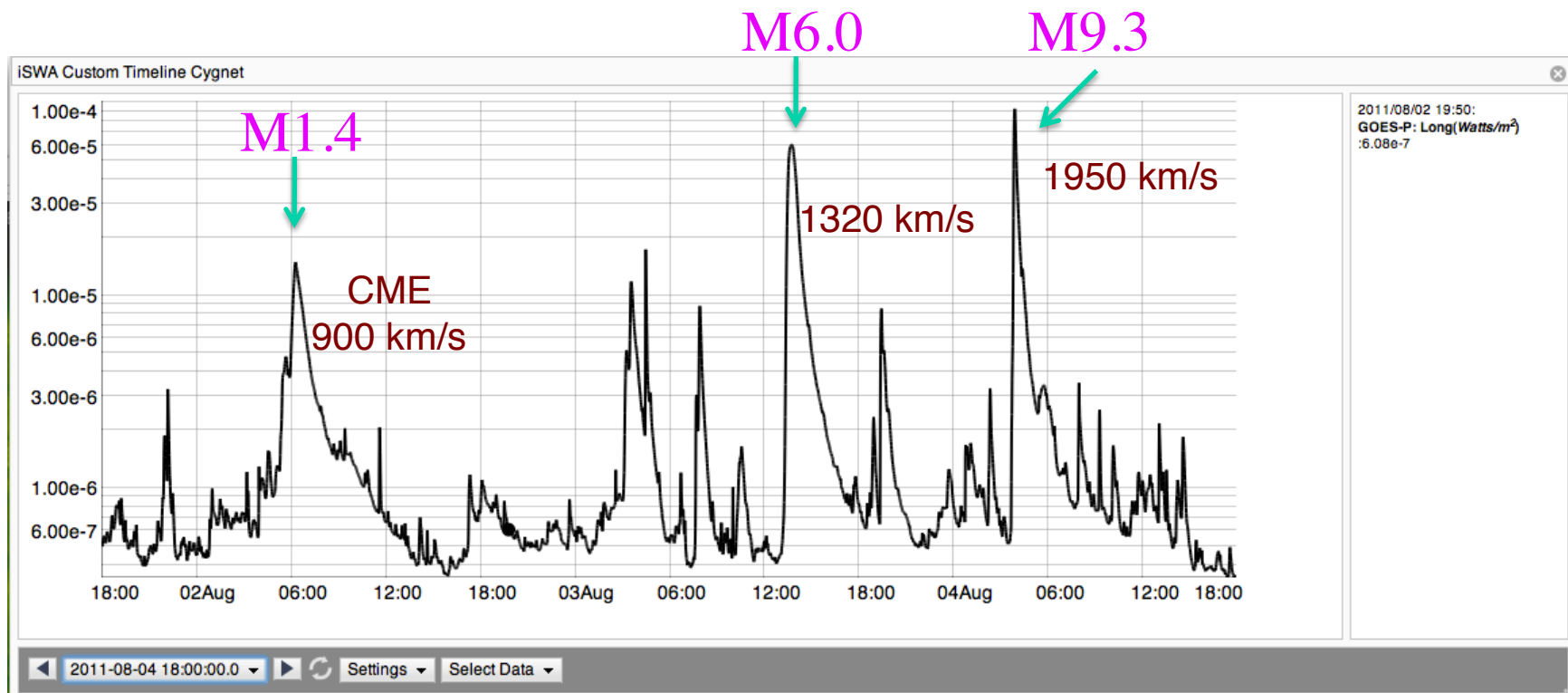


## Forecasting Example: Aug 2-4, 2011 CME events

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- iSWA allows tracking space weather events in the interplanetary space and forecast their impacts
- Sequence of recent major CME events Aug 2-4, 2011 that caused  $K_p = 8$  geomagnetic storm on Aug 5, 2011.
- Synthesize available information to achieve most accurate forecast. Update forecast when new data become available.
- The sequence of events and forecasts demonstrated especially our current capacity to provide large lead-time space weather forecasts.



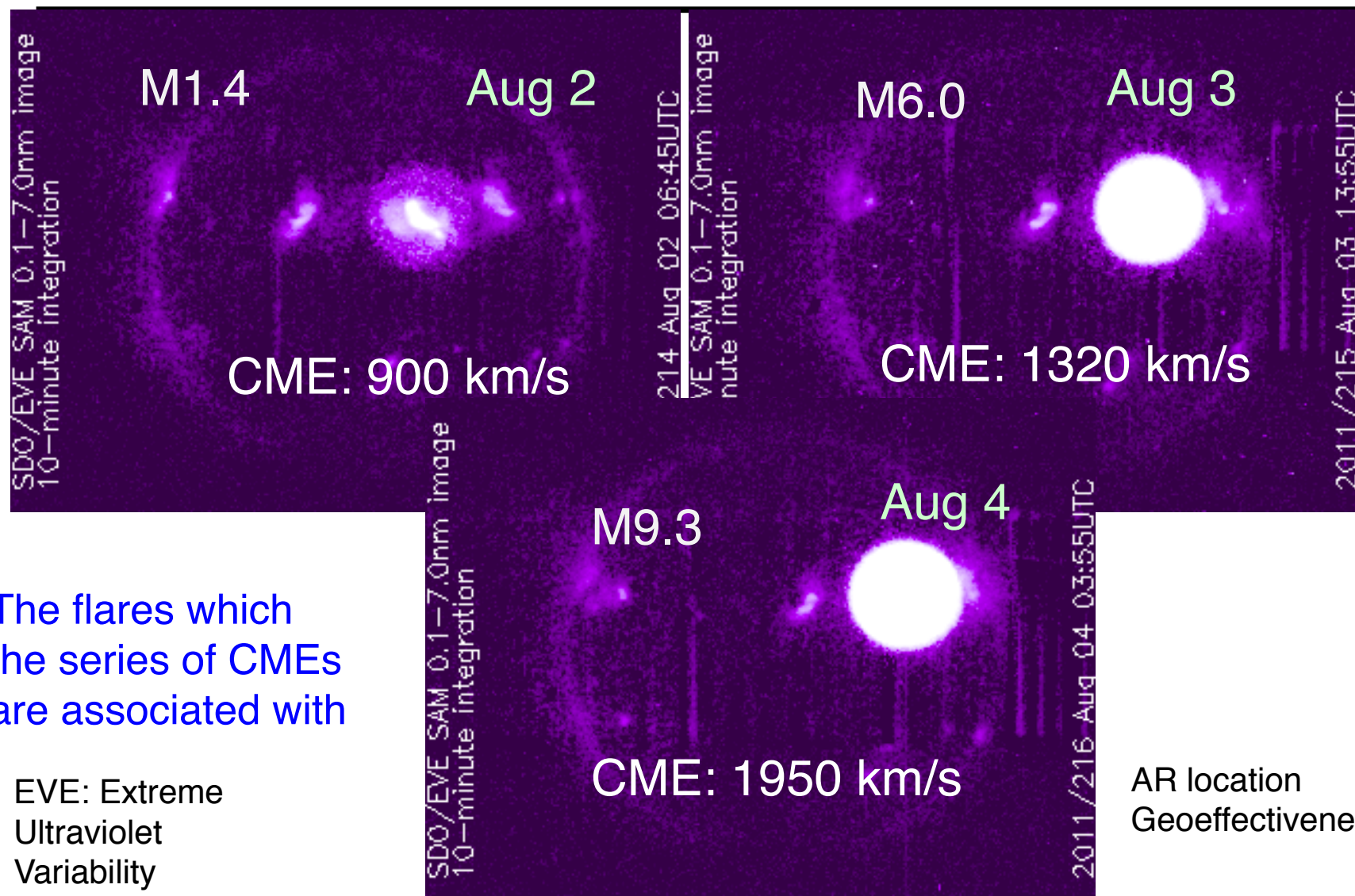
The flares which the series of CMEs are associated with:  
within a 48 hour period

Flare classification is based on GOES x-ray intensity (1-8 A)



# Flares: SDO EVE

## 2-D X-ray images

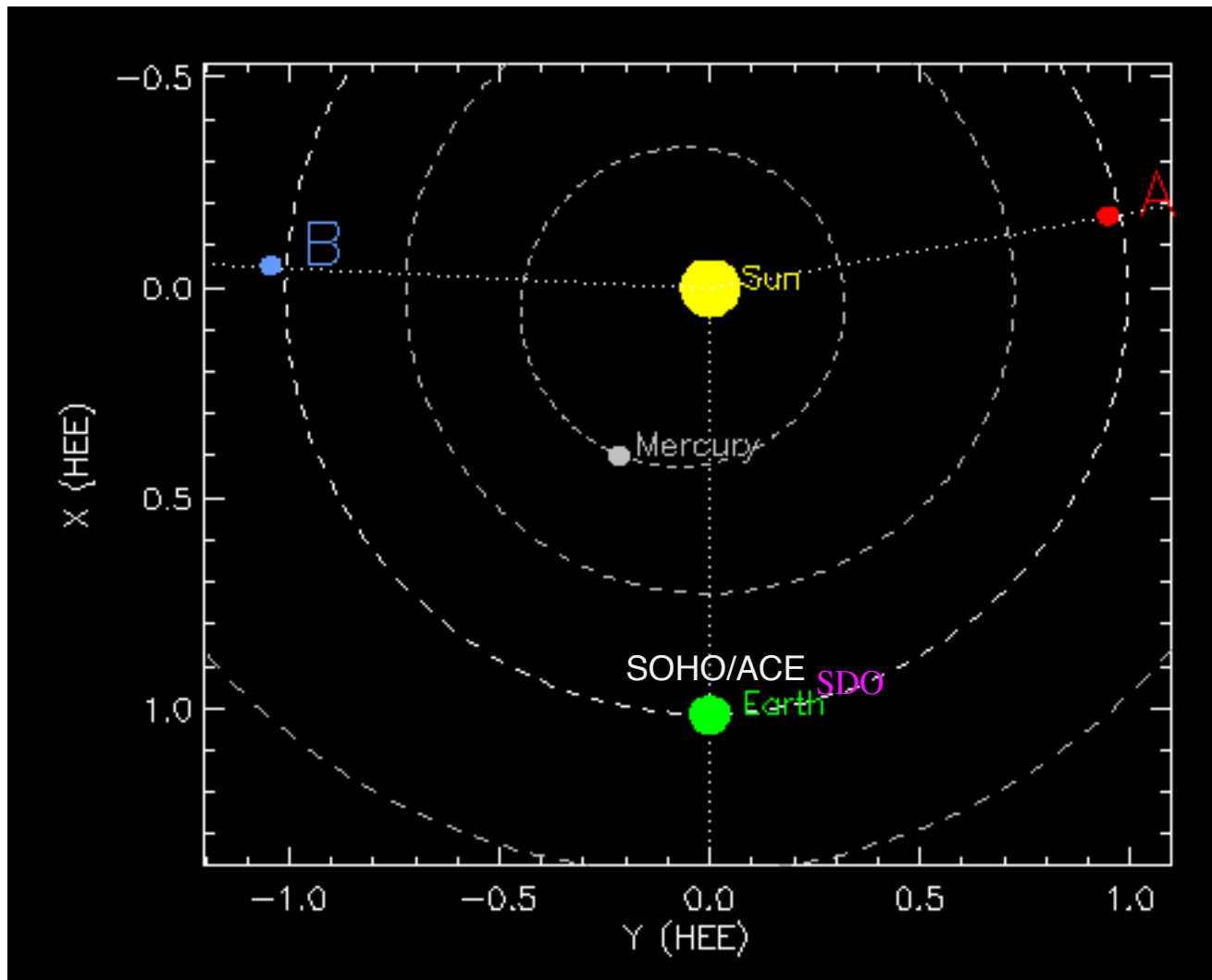


The flares which  
the series of CMEs  
are associated with

EVE: Extreme  
Ultraviolet  
Variability  
Experiment

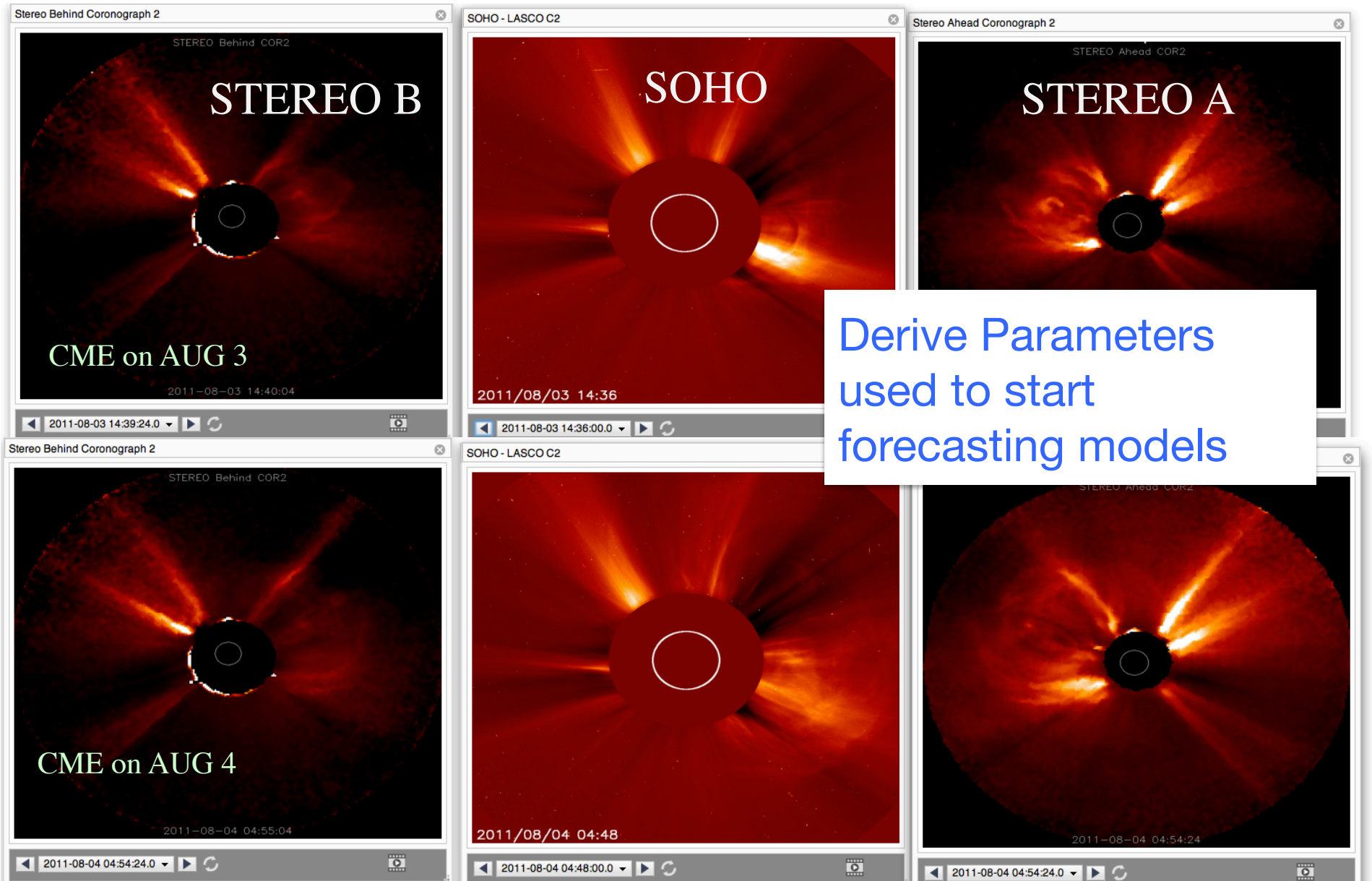
AR location  
Geoeffectiveness

# Relative Position in HEE





# CME Detection: Coronagraph Images

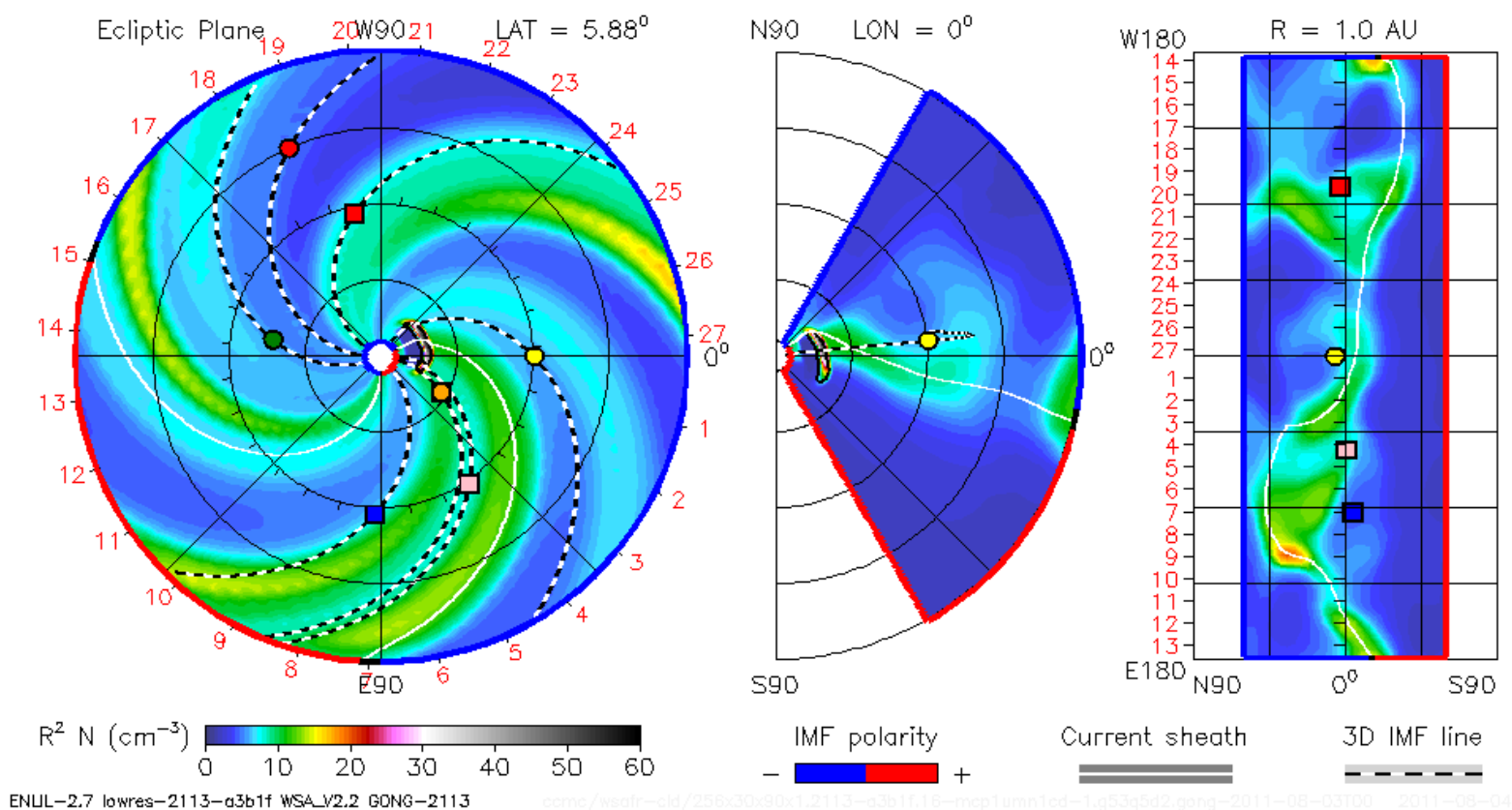




2011-08-03T00:00

2011-08-03T00 +0.00 day

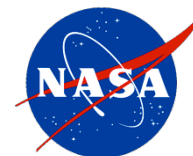
● Earth 
 ● Mars 
 ● Mercury 
 ● Venus 
 ■ Messenger 
 ■ Spitzer 
 ■ Stereo\_A 
 ■ Stereo\_B



1-2 day lead-time forecasting



## Aug 2-4, 2011 events



### One of our CME alerts

## NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Space Weather Laboratory ( SWL )  
## Message Type: Space Weather Alert  
##  
## Message Issue Date: [2011-08-04T11:00:00Z](#)  
## Message ID: 20110804-AL-003

## Alert Summary:

A significant CME detected by STEREO-A COR2 / STEREO-B COR2 and SOHO LASCO C2/C3.

Start time of the event: 2011-08-04T04:10Z.

Estimated speed: ~ 1950 km/s.

Estimated opening half-angle: 60 deg.

Direction (lon./lat.): 40/14 in Heliocentric Earth Ecliptic coordinates.

This CME is associated with the M9.3 class flare peaked at 2011-08-04T03:57Z from N16W38 (Region 1261) (see the alert 20110804-AL-001 earlier today).

Based on preliminary heliospheric modeling carried out at SWL, [this CME is likely to interact with the CME occurred on 2011-08-03 and their combined effects will reach Earth at about 2011-08-05T13:55Z \(plus minus 7 hours\)](#). The impact on Earth is likely to be major: the estimated maximum geomagnetic activity index level Kp is 7 (Kp ranges from 0 - 9). The flanks of the CME may impact STEREO A, Mars and Mercury/MESSENGER.

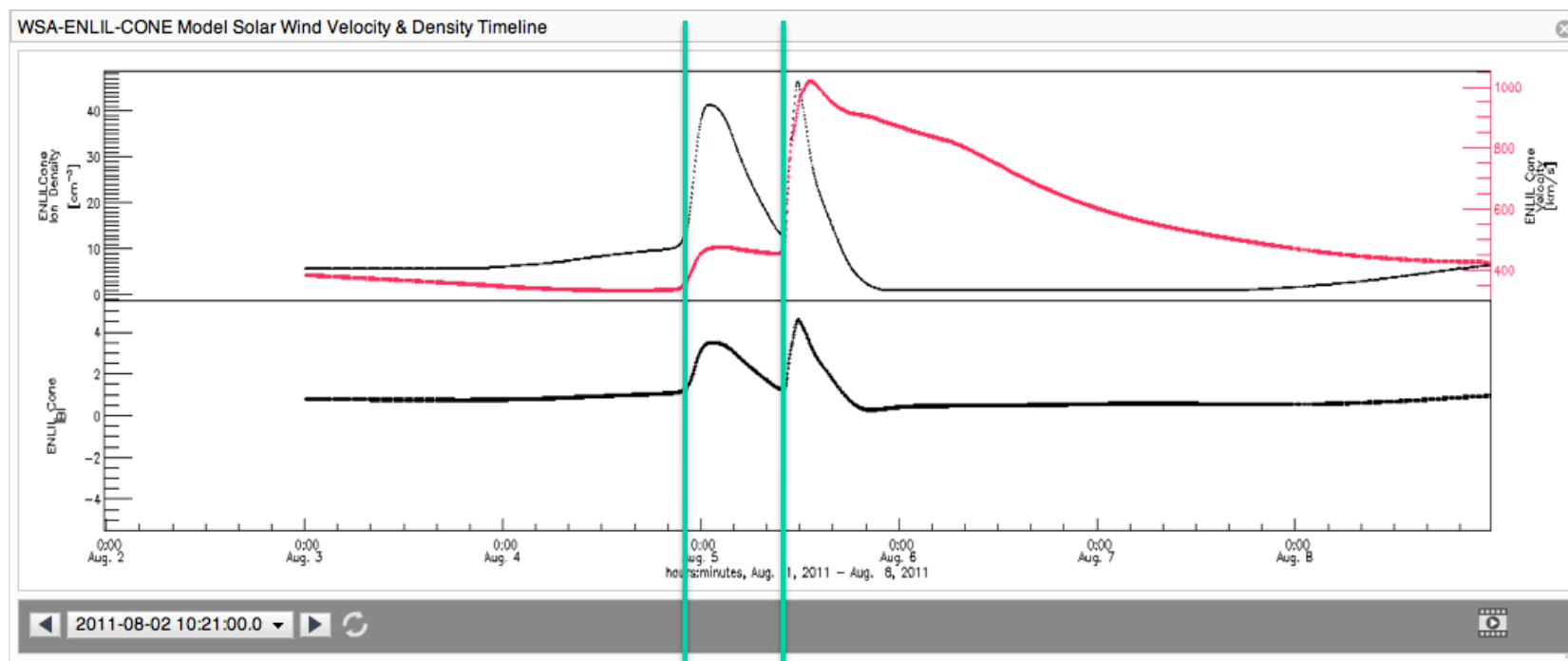
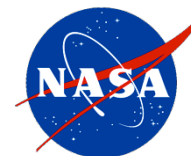
Further updates on the event will be provided when available.

**Alert threshold: fast moving  
(approx. > 600 km/s) object in the  
imagery.**





# Aug 2-4, 2011 CME events Prediction



Predicted initial impact  
2011-08-04 21:30Z

Predicted major impact  
2011-08-05 13:55Z

Observed initial impact  
2011-08-04 21:00Z

Observed major impact  
2011-08-05 17:25Z

Predicted max. Kp = 7

Observed max. Kp = 8

Predicted GIC range: 1-36 A

Observed max. GIC was 12 A



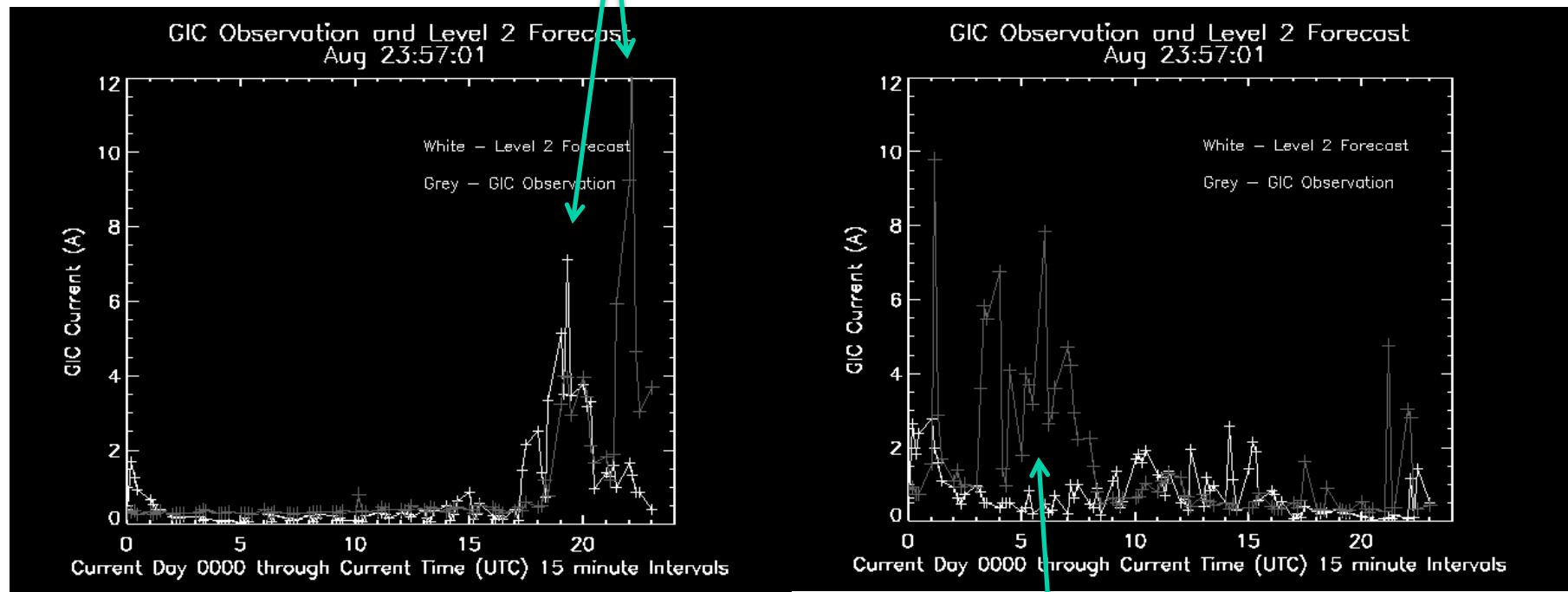
# Solar Shield – Level 2 forecast



Max. amplitudes captured fairly well

Aug 5, 2011

Aug 6, 2011



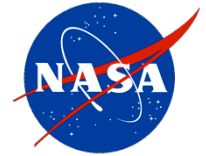
Beginning of the event was captured fairly well

Capturing the mid-storm evolution needs improvement



# Summary

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GSFC SWx Services for NASA robotic missions is a successful example of R2O.

Represents a maximum leverage of latest scientific research results and over a decade modeling experience enabled by CCMC.

GSFC has developed a world-leading information collection and public dissemination system, which supports NASA missions and other interests, such as the electrical power grid

Partnering, e.g., with AFWA, NSF, DHS, EPRI, Europe, Korea, Russia, commercial sector... is very important

Space weather benefits substantially by exploiting the proximity to scientific research.

There is tremendous additional potential to address national space weather needs in innovative, collaborative, and cost-effective ways.